



Joint European Post-Doctoral Programme: 'FLARE 2 - Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe'



ERA-AGE 2 Joint Call 2009-2010 Guidelines for applicants

FLARE 2 in brief: What is it?

FLARE 2 is a programme in Ageing Research jointly organised and financed by the participating organisations of several European countries who are members of the European Research Area in Ageing 2 (ERA-AGE 2) Network funded under the ERA-NET scheme of the European Commission between 2009 and 2012 (www.shef.ac.uk/era-age).

The idea of the FLARE 2 programme is to promote future ageing research by supporting an interdisciplinary exchange for post-doctoral researchers in Europe.

The programme offers funding for a 3-year postdoctoral research post in ageing research. The 3-year grant comprises a main project part of 24-30 months carried out at a home institution hosting the project, with a **mobility** part of 6-12 months to a receiving institution in a different research field (**preferably another discipline**) in **another country**. The home institution has to be located in a country participating in the FLARE 2 joint call, while the receiving institutions can be major research institutions or established research groups in ageing research across Europe (EU 27 and associated countries).¹

Aims of the FLARE 2 programme call

The aims of the FLARE 2 call are:

- To provide outstanding researchers with the opportunity to qualify for a leading position in ageing research.
- To support ageing research and develop a well trained cohort of European multi and interdisciplinary researchers in this field, connecting them to the prominent research institutes and scientific teams in Europe as well as to other post-doctoral researchers through communication, meetings and schools.
- To enhance communication and multilateral co-operation in ageing research and thereby create a network of leading European institutes and experts to form a basis for future national and EU-funded research on ageing.

¹ Countries participating in FLARE 2: Austria, Finland, France, Israel, Luxembourg, Quebec, Romania, Sweden, UK

FLARE 2 participating / funding organisations are committed to the present call by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by all. A list of the funding organisations and contact persons/coordinators is available under the section 'country specific information' at the end of these guidelines.

Deadline for proposal submission

The deadline for proposal submission is Friday 15th October 2010 for all participating countries.

Duration of funding

Funding is allocated for 3 years, including a 6-12 months mobility period at one or two different institutes.

Grant holders will be expected to dedicate their entire working time to the proposed research project during the entire period of the grant.

Start of project funding: 1st June 2011; End of project funding: 31st May 2014.

Language requirements

For organisational reasons proposals have to be submitted in English only.

Criteria for FLARE 2 applicants and projects

The following are conditions for eligibility under the FLARE 2 programme:

1. Applicants have to have received their doctorate within 6 years of application (in cases where paternity or maternity leave have been taken some flexibility may be granted).
2. FLARE 2 projects have to target ageing research and they should be multi- or interdisciplinary. The participating organisations may have specific requirements for proposals to fall within a specific field of ageing research (see *Annex I*).
3. Independently from their nationality, researchers must intend to carry out the major part of the research project in a FLARE 2 participating country.
4. FLARE 2 projects should preferably be carried out between 1st June 2011 and 31st May 2014. During this period, a mobility period of 6-12 months to a receiving institution in a different research field (preferably discipline) and another country must be included.
5. Applications must be submitted with two research institutions of which at least one is an ageing research institution or group in Europe (i.e. EU 27 countries & associated countries).

6. Applications must be submitted to the funding organisation of the country of the designated home institution, where the main part of the work will be carried out. Each applicant can only submit one application.
7. The proposed home institution must be accepted as eligible for funding by the responsible national funding organisation.
8. Applicants must provide a complete proposal of research objectives and activities according to the FLARE 2 application forms. Any proposal deemed by national funding organisation to have deliberately or accidentally omitted or misrepresented information relevant to its assessment will be automatically rejected.
9. The designated home institution must confirm in writing that it will host the proposed applicant and guarantee the required access to its equipment, facilities and resources.
10. The proposed institution to be visited for the 6-12 months mobility period must confirm in writing that it will host the proposed applicant and guarantee the required access to its equipment, facilities and resources. Statement of integration: The institution must demonstrate that it has robust plans to integrate the applicant in a multidisciplinary ageing research team. It must also state that the proposed research complies with any ethical or legal regulation of its country.

How to find a host institution for a FLARE 2 project

A list of ageing research institutes or groups is available on the website of the ERA-AGE network: www.shef.ac.uk/era-age

Note that other institutes and groups that do not appear in the list are eligible.

Selection criteria

The main selection criteria to be used by the FLARE 2 call are as follows:

- Scientific quality and originality of the project and of the research plan.
- Scientific excellence of the applicant (competence and expertise in his/her field, potential to become leaders in their field of research previous scientific track record, publications in scientific journals, other).
- National and international standing of the home and receiving institute (research profile of group and / or leading scientists) and complementarity.
- Integration of the project/fellow in the two institutes.
- Inter- or multidisciplinary of the proposed project.
- Strengths and weaknesses of the project
- Ethical issues (if any)

Type and amount of funding

FLARE 2 financial contributions should serve to cover the costs of a work contract including social security costs during the 3 years period starting 1st June 2011 and ending 30st May 2014. Salaries will be decided by the responsible national funding body.

The funding for the selected researchers will generally include the salary of the grant holder and resources to cover participation in the initial summer school and the final conference as well as, where appropriate, support for minor equipment, material costs, travel, etc.

The total amount of funding per grant varies by country given different framework conditions. For specific amounts, please refer to the section at the end of these guidelines 'Country specific information'.

How to submit a proposal

Applications have to be submitted to the funding organisation of the country of the designated home institution, where the main part of the work will be carried out. A list of the Participating Organisations and programme management members is available at the end of these Guidelines within 'Country specific information'.

Each applicant can only submit one application.

Applications have to be submitted by using the following forms:

<i>Part of Application Form</i>	<i>Content/scope</i>
Parts A-D	Main part of the application form, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A - Applicant Details and Project Summary • Part B - Background of the Applicant (including publications) • Part C - Project Description • Part D - CV of the Applicant
Part E – Home Institution	Employers Statement signed by the responsible scientist as well as the responsible administrative representative of the institution 1 where the major part of the project will be carried out, stating the willingness to host the applicant with his/her project and indicating the conditions for the applicant
Part F – Receiving Institution for Mobility Period	Employers Statement signed by the responsible scientist as well as the responsible administrative representative of the host institution 2 stating the willingness to host the project during the mobility period of



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	6-12 months and indicating the work conditions for the applicant
Annexes (if required)	A country specific form in addition, where applicable
Other information (optional)	Up to two letters of recommendation

All applications must be in English.

The application form and all documentation required must be submitted to the funding agency through which you are applying in accordance with its procedures. Applicants must submit a copy of their thesis and CV as separate files.

To facilitate the processing of proposals, the document security settings should allow your electronic documents to be read, copied and printed.

Confirmation of receipt

The applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt within 3 working days after submission.

Selection procedure

Proposals are first checked for eligibility by the FLARE 2 programme management committee.

The assessment of applications will be undertaken by an international review panel. Each eligible proposal will be evaluated by at least two panel members who are asked to prepare preliminary reviews for the panel. In some cases, a proposal may be sent to another expert who is not a member of the panel but who can provide additional knowledge pertaining to a particular field. All preliminary evaluation statements are given on the basis of a predefined review form taking up the review criteria. The preliminary evaluation statements are made available to the panel members before the panel meeting or at the meeting. All applicants will get written feedback on their proposal.

The panel meeting will evaluate all the applications assigned to it. The panel will prepare one joint statement (review) for each proposal, based on the panel discussions and the preliminary evaluations. Representatives of the funding organisations will assist the panel and may participate in the meeting of the panel. They may assist the panel in the preparation of the final evaluation.

Evaluation results with comments for each proposal and a funding suggestion by the review panel will be submitted to the funding organisation of the country of the designated home institution who make the final funding decisions in May 2011.



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Number of projects to be funded per country

Each participating country in FLARE 2 decides how many projects it will fund. **The final number of available grants depends upon the scientific quality of applications and availability of funding in 2011.**

Please consult section 'Country specific information' for details.

Confirmation of grant awards

Applicants will be informed about the outcome of the selection in May 2011, following the review panel meeting and final decisions made by FLARE 2 funding institutions.

Special agreements depending on host country

Depending on the host country, special agreements may apply which must be considered by applicants. For special agreements per participating country, please refer to the section 'Country specific information' below.

Country specific information

Participating funding organisations and contact persons (members of programme management committee):

Participating Country	Participating Organisation	Contact person / Coordinator	Likely Number of Grants Max. budget / grant (3years)	Specific country requirements, Additional forms
AUSTRIA	Austrian Academy of Sciences	Prof Beatrix Grubeck-Loebenstein Tel : 43-512-5839190-10 Email: beatrix.grubeck@oeaw.ac.at	1	
FINLAND	Academy of Finland	Tiina Forsman Phone: +358 9 7748 8443 Email : Tiina.Forsman@aka.fi Anu Nuutinen Phone +358-40-527 3442 E-mail: anu.nuutinen@aka.fi Dr Mikael Fogelholm E-mail: Mikael.Fogelholm@aka.fi	4	yes
FRANCE	Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Vieillesse in partnership with >Caisse Nationale de Solidarité pour L'Autonomie, and >DREES Mission Recherche (Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques)	Michel Tuchman Phone: 0033 1 53 92 50 20 E-mail: michel.tuchman@cnav.fr Annick Martin Phone : 00 33 1 53 91 21 74 e-mail : annick.martin@cnsa.fr	3	
ISRAEL	Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health	Dr.Benny Leshem Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health Phone: +972-2-5681208 E-mail: chief.scientist@moh.health.gov.il	2-3	

LUXEMBOURG	Fonds National de la Recherche	Mr Frank Bingen Tel: +352-26 19 25-52 Email: frank.bingen@fnr.lu	1	
QUEBEC	Fonds de la recherche en santé du Quebec (FRSQ)	Joanne Goldberg Tel : 514 873 2114 Email : jgoldberg@frsq.gouv.qc.ca	2	
ROMANIA	UEFISCSU	Prof. Adrian CURAJ, Tel:0040 21307 19 10, Email: adrian.curaj@uefiscsu.ro Luciana BRATU, tel:0040 21 30719 10, email: luciana.bratu@uefiscsu.ro	1-2	
SWEDEN	FAS	Kerstin Carsjo Phone: +46 8 7754089 E-mail: Kerstin.Carsjo@fas.se	1	
UNITED KINGDOM	University of Sheffield	Prof Alan Walker, co-ordination team ERA-AGE 2	~	Co-ordinator

FLARE 2 Deadlines and Events – Timetable

Call for Proposals July 2010

Deadline for applications mid-October 2010

Review Panel Meeting March 2011

Approval by National Funders May 2011



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FLARE 2 grants period

1st June 2011 and 31st May 2014

There will be FLARE Summer Schools in 2011 and 2012 (dates to be confirmed).

Project follow-up and monitoring

The FLARE 2 Management Committee will monitor the progress of the projects through annual reports. The format of these reports will be developed later and will be available through the ERA-AGE website.

Dissemination

Successful applicants are committed to mention their financial support by FLARE 2 and, if required, their national funding organisation, in publications, conference participations, exhibitions and press releases.

Further information

For further information visit the ERA-AGE website: www.shef.ac.uk/era-age

Contact:

(i) The funding organisation coordinator (see country specific information above)

or

(ii) Anouska Kettle based at the ERA-AGE coordination office: a.kettle@shef.ac.uk